

RPA Souvenir Covers

As a fund raiser, a number of RPA members design souvenir cacheted envelopes for local special events and national first day stamp issuances. Should you have artistic design talents, your help would be appreciated in these endeavors.

ROPEX- ROchester Philatelic EXhibition

Upstate New York's only national level stamp show, ROPEX, is sponsored by the RPA. Held yearly in May, it brings collectors, dealers and exhibitors from throughout the US and Canada together to buy, sell and talk philately. This is an all-volunteer effort on the part of the RPA, and we hope you can help out with at least one aspect of the show. Contact the ROPEX chairperson if you have expertise in finance, personnel/project management, publicity, or have special talents that you would like to contribute. RPA members get free admission to the show.

Exhibit Opportunities

If you ever thought of exhibiting at a local, regional or national level, the RPA can help. Several members have broad knowledge and experience in exhibiting and can assist you with your display. We also have a few nationally accredited APS and ATA judges in our membership who can additionally give you advice. ROPEX always makes frames available for a small fee to RPA members interested in national level competition.

National Stamp Collecting Month Celebration

Every few years the RPA has hosted this area's National Stamp Collecting Month celebration through an Open House during one of our October RPA meetings. It's a fun time, as RPA members have the chance to meet and introduce our hobby to the general public. You are always welcome to help with its planning and/or joining us that day displaying and explaining the many aspects philately has to offer.

Free Dues

As an RPA member, we hope you have the opportunity to recruit fellow philatelists into our group. By sponsoring three or more new members into the RPA in any given RPA year, your dues for the following year will be free. Life membership is granted to any RPA member with 25 years of paid dues.

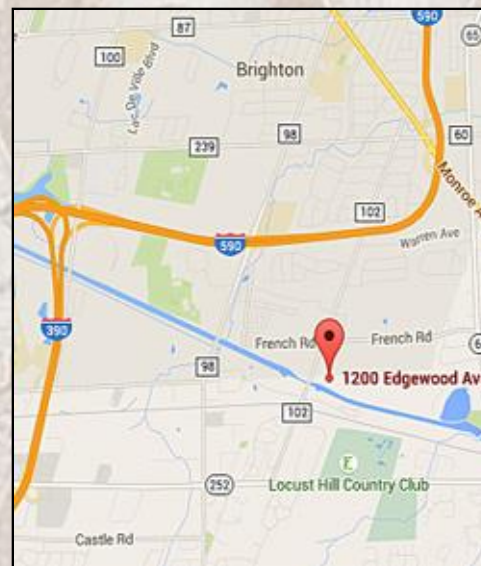
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We hope the material presented here gives you a better understanding of what the RPA is all about and the many ways we can help each other enjoy stamp collecting to its fullest. The RPA appreciates your decision to join our club, and once again, welcome!



Rochester Philatelic Association Services Guide

**Everything You Wanted to
Know About the RPA!
100+ Years and Going Strong!**



Meetings at:

**JCC of
Greater
Rochester**

Street Level Room A

**1200 Edgewood Ave.
In Brighton between
French Rd and
Winton Place.**

**2nd and 4th Thursdays
September-June
(2nd Thursdays only
November-December)**

**The RPA wants to welcome YOU
as our newest member!**

www.rpastamps.org

On behalf of your fellow members from throughout the US and Canada, welcome to the RPA! You are joining western New York's premier philatelic organization, founded in 1913. New members always have questions and this pamphlet is intended to answer some of them. It also outlines the variety of club benefits and services our organization offers.

Official Mailing Address

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10206
Brighton Station
Rochester, NY 14610-0206

Contacting the RPA

Tom (585) 225-6822
Dave (585) 752-6178
<http://www.rpastamps.org>
stampmf@frontiernet.net

Membership Dues

The RPA's "year" or season runs from September 1 through August 31. Dues are \$20 for this 12 month period.

Tax Status

The RPA is a non-profit, tax exempt organization incorporated in the state of New York since 1963. It has received 501(c)3 status from the IRS as a charitable organization.

RPA Officers & Constitution

The RPA constitution lays the foundation for the inner workings of the club. Request a copy from the membership chairperson or view it online. Current officers include the President (presides over all meetings), Vice President (assistant to the president), Treasurer, and Secretary (prepares meeting minutes). All of these positions are for two year terms and come with a seat on the RPA Board. One of three RPA Governors at-large positions is contested each year on a rotating schedule. Governors serve for a three year term. They also participate and vote in Board meetings, as does the immediate RPA Past President. Any RPA member in good standing may run for any RPA position.

Meeting Location Details

We meet the second and fourth Thursday of every month from September through June, except in November through February when only the second Thursday meeting is held. Our home is the JCC of Greater Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Avenue in Brighton in Room A. It is between French Road and Winton Place, close to the I-390 and I-590 exchange.

RPA Web Site

The RPA maintains a very extensive web site at <http://www.rpastamps.org>. You'll find meeting details, stamp show schedules, historical information and much more there. Check it out when you get a chance.

Meeting Agenda

All meetings officially begin promptly at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 PM, allowing a half hour of informal gatherings for exchanges, etc. beforehand.

Most meetings feature a silent auction table starting at 7 PM. Members with material to sell are welcome to bring in items for the table before 7:30. Pick up auction forms for a small fee at the head table when you arrive, placing one on each lot. Include your full name, an accurate item description, estimated catalog value, and the minimum starting bid. Those interested in the lot will examine it and place written bids on your sheet. The highest bid at the time the auction closes at the end of the evening wins the lot. There is no commission involved. All lots are then settled between the seller and buyer. Note that the RPA assumes no responsibility for items on the table before, during or after the silent auction.

Lasting a little over an hour, meetings typically end by 9:00 PM. Programs cover a variety of philatelic subjects, with either a live or electronic presentation. We encourage RPA members to give talks on their areas of interest and/or expertise. Speak with the current RPA officers to discuss such opportunities. We can also arrange to photo or scan your items for a presentation.

The RPA Newsletter, "Hinges & Tongs"

All RPA members enjoy a copy of the latest newsletter, "*Hinges & Tongs*," every three months from September through June. It has official club information, meeting agenda and assorted articles. This is free and part of your membership. You are always welcome to submit articles for publication. The deadline for submission is roughly 3 weeks before the publication date. For details, contact the newsletter's editor and publisher. Members with email receive their issues electronically.

RPA Library

The RPA maintains an extensive philatelic library for use by the membership. Every few years the club purchases a set of Scott's catalogues which may only be used on meeting nights. Older catalogs and most other publications in the 200+ volume library may be borrowed at the close of each meeting and returned at the next one. A complete inventory of books and catalogs for lending is available. Included are past and present issues of major society publications, such as "*The American Philatelist*" and "*Topical Times*."

Affiliates

The RPA is an affiliate of four societies: the American Philatelic Society (Chapter 207), the American Topical Association (Chapter #84), American First Day Cover Society (Chapter 69), and the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors (Associate #1).